

BOOK REVIEWS

The Extra Pharmacopœia (Martindale). Vol. 1; 24th ed. (Pp. xxx + 1695. 65s.) London: The Pharmaceutical Press. 1958.

This latest edition hardly needs reviewing. The general arrangement is as usual, deletions have been few, and much new information has been added. The necessary changes relevant to the 1958 B.P. are indicated. The special sections on antibiotics, immunological products, and radioactive isotopes give a wide range of new and useful information. The editors and contributors are to be congratulated on their handling of such a mass of information, new and old. Criticism of detail is supererogatory: Martindale still continues to be a "must".

Therapeutic Heat. Ed.: Sidney Licht, M.D. Vol. II of Physical Medicine Library. (Pp. xiii + 466; illustrated. \$12.00.) New Haven, Connecticut: Elizabeth Licht. 1958.

This book about heat covers all aspects of the problem, including theoretical physics, thermometry, physiology, clinical research and clinical application. There are twenty-three contributors, all experts in their own field.

As a collection of essays bringing together the known facts about this subject, it has no equal; and it is certain to become a standard reference book for physical medicine specialists and others wanting detailed information. Current research on the clinical application of heat is causing rapidly changing thoughts on the subject. At this stage, dogmatic statements might be misleading, and, therefore, this book is a discussion of research findings, rather than a quick guide to correct treatment.

Every chapter poses problems that have yet to be solved. The most important problem is the mechanism by which heat relieves pain. Although most workers have assumed that this is due to changes in tissue temperature and blood flow, they are reminded that the soothing effect of heat may be entirely due to impulses from the skin thermo-receptors interfering with the central reception of pain impulses. If this is so, the theoretical basis for deep heating is weakened still farther.

Reflexogenic Areas of the Cardiovascular System. By C. Heymans, M.D., and E. Neil, M.D., D.Sc. (Pp. viii + 271; illustrated. 56s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

This book, which is well illustrated, describes the arterial baroreceptors and the chemoreceptors, and for the most part is concerned with the physiology of the cardiovascular reflexes. It outlines the pathways of the baroreceptor reflexes, and their general effects in the control of the circulation. It also explains how the cardiovascular reflexes of the carotid and aortic chemoreceptor areas are stimulated by anoxia, hypercapnia and by acidosis.

No teacher of physiology should be without this informative work on the subject.

Safety Techniques for Radioactive Tracers. By J. C. Bournsnel, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C. (Pp. xii + 68; illustrated. 7s. 6d.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1958.

Dr. Bournsnel's small book should fill a gap on the bookshelves of many workers concerned with the use of radioactive tracers. Much of the subject matter was first presented as a committee report to the University of Cambridge.

In addition to the author's own advice, we have, collected in one volume, data formerly available only from reports of various official bodies. There is also a fairly complete bibliography.

The recommendations will be clear to anyone unfamiliar with the use of radioactive tracers and although the reviewer is aware that some of the procedures advocated approach a perfection which has not always been attained, it is agreeable to think that this book will help to eliminate hazards both to personnel and to results in the future.

Studies on Phagocytic Stimulation. By B. Gözsy, D.Pharm., D.Biochem., and L. Kátó, M.D. (Pp. 135.) Montreal: Institute of Microbiology and Hygiene of the University of Montreal. 1957.

This monograph is an informed account of the factors which bring about an inflammatory response, and the activity of the reticulo-endothelial system which results. It is brief,